

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 8 are amended. No new matter is added. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found in Applicant's original application, for example, at page 1, lines 6-9; page 3, lines 5-8; page 6, lines 11-18; page 10, lines 6-12; and Figs. 1, 2 and 4.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiners Brendan N. McCommas and Jefferey Harold in the November 29, 2007 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

In the Office Action, claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Wiley, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0084105. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

During the interview, it was argued that Wiley does not disclose a cooperation instruction information generating unit for generating, if a service processing apparatus which is requested for executing a service by the service execution requesting unit has become incapable of executing the service, second cooperation instruction information that instructs the cooperative processing apparatus to perform cooperative execution of the service which the service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing and services following it, as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in claim 8.

Instead, Wiley is directed at providing a remote document history repository and multifunction device therefor and discloses the steps of sending a document from a multifunction device, and recording delivery data from a sent document in the remote document history repository, when the document is sent from the multifunction device. According to Wiley, the delivery data is accessible from the remote document history repository independent of the multifunction device (paragraphs [0011] to [0012]). Wiley's multifunction device 100 may be used to convert paper documents 110 to electronic images and then transmit the

electronic images to a variety of destinations 140 to 142, including, but not limited to, an e-mail account 140, a facsimile machine 141, and/or any number of other devices or communication devices 142 (paragraph [0019]). Furthermore, Wiley's multifunction device 100 may be a network digital copier, an "all-in-one" device for attachment to a PC, a document managing machine, a network capable scanner, etc. (paragraph [0027]).

However, Wiley's apparatus does not generate second cooperation instruction information that instructs the cooperative processing apparatus to perform cooperative execution of the service which the service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing and services following it, as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in claim 8. Because Wiley's multifunction device is a single unit, it is unable to request another device to perform a service on a document that it is unable to perform. Rather, Wiley stores the document data in a repository. When a document 110 is sent from the multifunction device 100 and receipt has not been acknowledged, the document (i.e., document copy 153) is resent after a predetermined time is elapsed since the document 110 was sent from the multifunction device 100, as indicated by the lack of a return receipt. Alternatively, according to Wiley, the program code may instead send an e-mail or other notification to the sender to notify the sender that the document is undeliverable and resides at the repository (paragraphs [0040 to [0041]). Thus, the service is not executed. Instead, the user is notified of this.

Furthermore, during the personal interview, it was discussed that Wiley does not disclose a service execution requesting unit for requesting, on the basis of the first cooperation instruction information that instructs the cooperative processing apparatus to perform cooperative execution, via a network, of respective processes of plural services of a cooperative process on document data, a service processing apparatus for executing a service wherein a plurality of separate devices perform a plurality of services on document data, as recited in independent claim 1, and as similarly recited in claim 8. Because Wiley discloses a

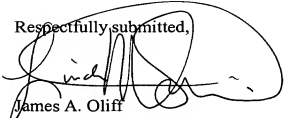
multifunction device, all services to be performed on a document are performed by the same multifunction device.

Therefore, Wiley fails to disclose all of the features of independent claims 1 and 8. Accordingly, claims 1 and 8 are allowable. Dependent claims 2-7 and 9-14 are allowable for their dependence on independent claims 1 and 8 and for additional features recited therein. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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